

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 35 and 51 without prejudice. Please withdraw claims 52-55 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute canceled or withdrawn claims in continuing applications.

Please amend claims 30, 34, 49, 50 and 57 as indicated.

Please add new claim 59.

1-29. Canceled

30. (Currently amended) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect of protecting or rescuing neurons destined to degenerate or die as a result of hypoxia or ischemia in a brain of a patient, comprising administering growth hormone, an analog thereof, or a functionally equivalent ligand to the brain of the patient.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, where the neuroprotective effect is a prophylactic effect.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.

34. (Currently amended) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect of protecting or rescuing neurons destined to degenerate or die as a result of hypoxia or ischemia in a brain of a patient, comprising administering to said patient, a pharmaceutically effective amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of growth hormone releasing peptides (GHRP), GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, Hexarelin, G-7039, G-7502, L-692,429, L-692,585, L-163,191, growth hormone releasing hormone (NHRH) and somatostatin (somatotropin release inhibitory factor; SRIF), wherein such substance causes ~~causing~~ an increase in the effective concentration of growth hormone or a functionally equivalent endogenous ligand in the brain of the patient.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the causing an increase in the effective concentration of growth hormone or ligand comprises administering an agent which either simulates production of growth hormone or the ligand or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone or ligand activity.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the neuroprotective effect is a neuroprophylactic effect.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect in a brain of a patient which comprises causing an increase in the activity of neural growth hormone receptors in the brain of the patient.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the causing an increase in the activity of neural growth hormone receptors in the brain of the patient comprises directly administering to the brain of said patient an agent which increases the activity of said neural growth hormone receptors.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 where the agent binds growth hormone receptors.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42 where the agent is selected from growth hormone, an analog thereof, prolactin, an analog of prolactin, placental lactogen and an analog of placental lactogen.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 where the agent effects an increase in the active concentration of an agent which binds neural growth hormone receptors.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 where the agent is selected from growth hormone releasing proteins (GRP), growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH), functionally equivalent secretagogues of these, and somatotropin release inhibitory factor (SRIF).

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the neuroprotective effect is a neuroprophylactic effect.
47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40 where the neuroprotective effect is a neural rescue effect.
48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47 where the neural rescue effect is the rescue of neurons otherwise destined to die as the result of a prior neuronal insult.
49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30 ~~comprising administering growth hormone, an analog thereof, a functionally equivalent ligand in combination with~~ further comprising administering a secondary neuroprotective agent.
50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49 where the secondary neuroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of IGF-1, GPE, activin, NGF, TGF- β , growth hormone binding proteins, IGF-binding proteins and bFGF.
51. (Canceled)
52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is Huntington's disease or Alzheimer's disease, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of GPE, IGF01, and activin.
53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is corticobasal degeneration of Steele-Richardson-Olszewski syndrome, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is IGF-1.
54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is Devic's disease or Pick's disease, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of GPE and IGF-1.
55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51 where the neuronal insult is diabetic neuropathy, and the secondary neuroprotective agent is at least one of IGF-1 and activin.
56. (Currently amended) A neuroprotective pharmaceutical composition comprising a suitable excipient; growth hormone, and analog thereof, or a functionally equivalent ligand; and a secondary

neuroprotective agent selected from the group consisting of GPE, activin, NGF, TGF- β , growth hormone binding proteins, IGF-binding proteins, and bFGF, provided that when only one secondary neuroprotective agent is present, it is not IGF-1.

57. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 56 ~~where the secondary neuroprotective agent is selected from GPE, activin, NGF, TGF- β , growth hormone binding proteins, IGF-binding proteins, and bFGF~~ further comprising IGF-1.

58. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein said patient suffers from stroke.

Please add the following new claim.

59. (New) A method for inducing a neuroprotective effect of protecting or rescuing neurons destined to degenerate or die as a result of a disorder in a brain of a patient, comprising administering growth hormone to the brain of the patient, wherein said disorder is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, corticobasal degeneration of Steele-Richardson-Olszewski syndrome, Devic's disease, Pick's disease and diabetic neuropathy.